

0 (0s):

So, so do that. And we're about to jump into the last week in our series, the quest, but I wanted to talk for a few minutes about like some tech stuff. Okay. So I had a woman that called me this week and I'm really bad at off answering my office phone, but I just happened to like pick it up. And this woman we'll call her Lorna. She called and she said, Madam, pastor Matt. I'm so glad that I got a hold of you. She see, she lives over on the East coast. And she was starting to think about moving to Denver. And she was online looking around and found our church and happened to find one of the messages I gave last December, talking about the shame we all carry around with us and how Jesus heals us from that shame. And she was like, this is exactly what I needed to hear in tears. She's telling me, like, I I'm dealing with some stuff.

0 (42s):

I'm going through some difficult times in my life. And I just needed to hear that. I'm so glad I found you guys. And if I do move on, I'm definitely coming to your church, you know? And so it was really cool to make this connection with someone that watched a message from a few months ago that was hosted online and she just happened to make this connection. And I could talk with her on the phone. And I love hearing stories from people, even people I've never met that are hearing about Jesus and growing in their faith, following Jesus because of our technology, which is amazing. Right. I think it's really cool that we can do that. So we had an online presence even before COVID, but with, you know, when COVID hit last year, we were all online for a while. And then even afterwards, we're still, you know, the vast majority of people that are joining us every week are online.

0 (1m 24s):

So we had a debate about this and the whole church world's debating this. Like, is it okay? Is okay for someone to just participate online in a church? Does that count? And of course we all know that there are certain things with being in person that are different. You know, you rub shoulders with people, you see people, the sound is different. You know, there's all sorts of different things, but we were debating that like, is it okay now that people can start coming back in we're we're nearing the end. You know, it's the beginning of the end of this pandemic, is it okay? Then if people stay just online, so we debated it, we took a whole staff meeting. We spent a few hours just debating it, like strategy and just to kind of come up with something, is it okay? Is it not? We looked at what the scripture say. And we even found like, well, Hey, there's a lot of times that Paul wrote letters to churches and he wasn't with them.

0 (2m 8s):

That's why he wrote the letter. Right. There's even times where he was in prison in jail. And he's like, Hey, this letter, I want you to have, I can't come with you physically, but I'm going to send you this letter anyways. I want to, I wish I could, but I can't. That's what he would say again and again, his letters. And we looked at that and we said, Hey, we all like in person, we love when our are our auditoriums packed with people, you know, but think of all the incredible opportunities and people like, like Lorna, who can now connect and fake, even though they aren't setting foot here personally. So what we came to our decision was I want to help people follow Jesus no matter where they are. And there's a lot of great things we can do. You know, we,

even before the pandemic, we had a, like this set of like five behaviors that were saying, Hey, these are what we want people to do to grow in faith, to follow Jesus.

0 (2m 54s):

And you can do all of them online. You don't have to be physically present here in central North East Denver to be a part of them. So we're talking about like worship weekly. Well, we have a lot of people that are worshipping weekly. In fact, we have, you know, just from personal observation, seeing that people actually are more likely to worship every week than when they were pre pandemic. And the reason is, is because even if they were like before they'd be traveling or be working on a Sunday morning, once a month, well, Hey, they can subscribe. They can make sure that they are catching the entire worship service or, or the message every week. You know, some people are like, Hey, every Tuesday night is my worship time. And we're like, Oh, that's, that's cool. You know? So we're seeing, Hey, people are worshipping weekly, great.

0 (3m 35s):

Even at a higher frequency than they were before. Praise God, right. Choose community. That's the second behavior. We want everyone to do choose community. We want you in a community group. Well, we have people now in our community group, there's a family in our community group that doesn't even live in the Denver Metro area. They live elsewhere in the state and they join us every week for community groups. We're discussing. And we're growing in our faith together. They're even like sending me texts and amen, you know, encouraging texts. And I'm like, this is great. Like, this is what community is all about in our church. Choose community. So people can worship weekly. They can choose community. We're even starting to see people serve somewhere. Right now. We just have a couple of opportunities, but we're really working on coming up with more and more opportunities. Like right now we have online hosts. Alexa is one of our online hosts to make our online services even better.

0 (4m 17s):

If you're interested in that, we need more online hosts, but Hey, you don't even have to be physically present. You can serve every week during the week. And we're coming up with more and more opportunities that people that aren't here physically can serve every week. Okay. So you can serve somewhere. You can also give generously, I mean, that's the easiest one. People were doing that before the pandemic, right? One of our biggest givers in our church right now has yet to set foot in this building. Isn't that cool. He moved here during the pandemic, found our church is attending every week, but he just hasn't come yet physically. And I'm like, that's amazing. Right? So you can give generously, even if you're not physically in the building. And then the last thing we want everyone to help someone else follow Jesus, what can you do that? Well, yeah, you can share the stream.

0 (4m 57s):

You can text someone a message. Say, Hey, listen to this. You can even be an online mentor to someone there's so many different ways that you can do all those behaviors and we're stepping back and looking at it.

And we're like, well, that seems pretty good, right? Yes. We love it when people are in person. And we think if you're, if it's possible, do it, but for a lot of people, they can, are they traveled throughout the week or they traveled several weeks out of the month. You know, we still want to help you follow Jesus. So we're really excited about the opportunities that God has put in kind of forced upon us. Right. And yet we want to embrace them as a church. So we want to help people follow Jesus in-person and online. Right. So, so I've just like laying this out for you guys. This is something that we're like embracing and we're really excited about.

0 (5m 38s):

And because of that, we realized that we need to improve it. So we've done a lot of things to improve our online presence and what our services are like online. But what we were finding every Monday morning when we were doing our after action reviews from Sunday, that like 10 out of 15 problems had to do with tech stuff, like every week, Oh my gosh, we had this glitch, we had this issue, we had this we're. We need to help with it. And there was a guy who was starting to help us help us. And he was even doing this before we went on a like COVID, but he was helping a lot. And what's even crazier is that he was working full-time at another church doing tech stuff there, and then would come over and volunteer his time to help us. We got to know this guy love him. And finally, around December, we started talking with him and then we, we offered him a job and he is on board.

0 (6m 21s):

So Jason, if you could come on up, this is Jason cob.

1 (6m 27s):

He is our tech

0 (6m 28s):

And facility director. Now he started this week and we're so glad to have Jason on board. So he's going to be our he's he's our chief problem solver. Like that's one of his titles, right? So whatever tech problem we have, he he's working to solve it and he's already making things better. And we're just so excited to see what he's going to do with our church in the future. So make sure you stay afterwards to welcome Jason, onboard our team. It's also a lot of big changes in his life. He just got engaged yesterday

1 (6m 55s):

To Kelsey,

0 (6m 57s):

Kelsey bell. Who's been a part of our church for a while now. And we're, we're so excited to have Jason on board and our staff. So I'm going to say a prayer for him. And then we're going to jump into our finale of our quest series. Let's pray, Lord God. I'm just so grateful for Jason. Just seeing his heart, that that's volunteered

time here while he's on the staff, full-time with another church and just his willingness to serve wherever there's a need. And we're so grateful for him. And we're thankful that he can be here now full time at our church. I pray that you'd help us welcome him into the community and that he could really help our church move forward faster as we help more and more people follow Jesus in person and online. I pray God that you would be with us in the service too, that you'd give us open hearts, open minds that we can learn, and we could grow together in Jesus name.

0 (7m 40s):

I pray. Amen. I man. Okay. Thanks Jason. And one other thing, pastor Sawyer

1 (7m 47s):

His birthday today. Yeah. So thank you pastor Sawyer. We love you too. Yeah, you like that? And that photo of Lucy was tiny in that photo too. Right?

0 (7m 56s):

Right. Happy birthday Sawyer. So stick around afterwards and tell him happy birthday as well. Okay. So we're going to jump into our series of the quest. This is our final message in this series. If you missed any, you go to a rise in Vodacom on our media page. We have all the audio, video and transcripts of messages

1 (8m 13s):

Today. We're going to talk about the goal, the goal of the quest, what it's all about, right.

0 (8m 20s):

And yet what we have found. And I think we can just say it, that the goals we have in our lives

1 (8m 27s):

Disappoint us, disappoint us. Elvis

0 (8m 31s):

Presley was interviewed six weeks before he died in Vegas. And the reporter said, Hey, you know, when you started out, you told us that you were going after fame, you were going after money and you were going after being happy. So, so have you turned out with those goals?

1 (8m 47s):

And he

0 (8m 48s):

Responded by saying, I'm not happy. I'm lonely as hell,

1 (8m 52s):

Hell, lonely as hell. Don't

0 (8m 56s):

We see this when the people reach in our society, reach the peak and none of us get there. Right. But we see them and they they're disappointed. They're depressed, even suicidal when they think they have it all, they reached the goal,

1 (9m 6s):

Right. But yet they're disappointed. The

0 (9m 10s):

Harvard professor retired now, Clayton Christensen and just a phenomenal business leader. And he graduated from Harvard business school in 1979. And he started keeping track of all of the people that graduated with him. And he would make sure to go to all the reunions and when he would see them there increasingly over the year, these people who made lots of money, very well-educated were very powerful in business. And in a nonprofit organizations, what he would see is that they became increasingly

1 (9m 39s):

Unhappy and depressed

0 (9m 41s):

As their marriages would fall apart, as they would grow estranged from their kids, they were more and more unhappy. In fact, the word he used to describe the, the, the guys, the men and women that he graduated with was a hollow on happiness, hollow, unhappiness

1 (9m 58s):

Their lives. So

0 (10m 0s):

We're honest. I think if we look at the goals that we have in our

1 (10m 4s):

Lives goals like

0 (10m 7s):

Fame or fortune, or, or, or even just success, whatever we have, they disappoint us. They disappointed us in two different ways. First they disappoint us. If we never reached those goals, how sad is it when we have these great goals and then we never achieve them, maybe it's to get into that college who you don't get into

the college it's to, to, to graduate from college. And then you take

1 (10m 28s):

Am. You're not gonna make it or you

0 (10m 32s):

Okay, I'm going to be in that career. I'm going to be a pilot. And then your site is too bad, or you're going to be a doctor, or that's my goal. And then you faint

1 (10m 40s):

Sight of blood. It's not for me disappointing when we don't reach it.

0 (10m 46s):

It's disappointing when we're saying, Hey, I'm going to get married. And then you don't get married. I am going to have kids. And then you don't have kids, Hey, I'm going to retire. And then the stock market crashes, and it looks like you're going to work until you die. It's disappointing when we don't reach our goals.

1 (11m 1s):

But it's also disappointing when we reach our goals. Let's be honest. We

0 (11m 6s):

Think it's going to be so great. You get into the college. And you're like, Oh,

1 (11m 9s):

I don't really like these people.

0 (11m 11s):

You, you graduate in a year. Like, I'm so excited to get into this career. And then you get the job. And you're like, I have to do this every day

1 (11m 16s):

For the rest of my life numbing. Oh, I'm

0 (11m 22s):

Going to get married. And then man, he doesn't clip his

1 (11m 24s):

Toenails. And that's his definition of clean. I don't know about that to spend the rest of my life with this guy, you have the kids and then they're unruly. Or they move out of the house and you're like, that's it, you retire.

And you're thinking, man,

0 (11m 43s):

This was what was going to be great. Now I'm just lonely. See all these goals we have, whether you don't make them or you do make your goals, it disappoints us. And we should just be honest. It,

1 (11m 55s):

We should be

0 (11m 56s):

Honest about it in our lives. The, that these goals disappoint us. You know, they, people usually talk about midlife crisis, like midlife crisis that you're having. But I really think there are like three different crisis that people go through. There's the quarter-life crisis

1 (12m 12s):

In your twenties. And your thinking is, is,

0 (12m 18s):

Is it what I really want? Do I, do I want that? And then you have this crisis and then you get into your midlife, right. Forties, fifties. And you're thinking I have it all. Is this it? And then there's the three quarters life crisis you retire. And you're thinking was that it, this is what we do. We have these crises in our life. And that's why people do something crazy. They, they move out of the country, they get a divorce, they have an affair. They all these different, crazy things that people do because they realize these goals. I have disappointed me for Forbes magazine, 75th anniversary. They asked 15 different writers to answer the prompt and I'm paraphrasing it. But the prompt was, why is life so good?

1 (12m 59s):

And yet we're so unhappy.

0 (13m 2s):

Peggy Noonan, one of the writers wrote, this said our ancestors believed in two worlds and understood this to be the solitary, poor, nasty brutish, and short one. We are the first generation of man that actually expected to find happiness here on earth. And our search for it has caused much unhappiness. If you believe she wrote only in the flat material world around you. And if you believe that this is your only chance at happiness, if that is what you believe, then you

1 (13m 34s):

Are what disappointed.

0 (13m 40s):

What I hope we can learn today is not that goals are bad. I have lots of goals. Okay? You don't even know how many goals I have for our church and for my personal life and all this. I'm a big goal person. And yet every goal we set

1 (13m 53s):

As good as they are,

0 (13m 55s):

Must be secondary and tertiary to the ultimate goal. And that's what we're going to learn today. If you want this path of happiness and to reach the goal that actually brings you happiness, we have to have an ultimate goal.

1 (14m 9s):

That's other worldly, that's other worldly. So that's what we're going to learn today. And in this

0 (14m 14s):

Quest series, this is the final message, but we talked about, Hey, there's this story form. You see throughout folktales, throughout literature, in the novels we read, and even in the movies we watch, there's a story form that occurs again and again and again. And it's almost like our Christian life. I believe the author of Hebrews is kind of teaching that to us. As we've looked at jumped throughout this book in this series, and we started with the call, the call and the call of the Christian is what Jesus says to us. Come follow me. And in that first message we learned to just take a step. It's a call, just, just a journey with Jesus. Just take the next step, whatever it is, take a step. And then in week two, we talked about some of the relationships we need in our life to have this quest and have a good journey.

0 (14m 56s):

And the first relationship was the guides we need, but it's not just someone who's gone before us or as an expert in our field, whatever. No, no, no. We need to let the godly be your guides. Let the godly be your guides. That was week two and week three. We talked about the companions. Cause we need friends on this journey. We need friends, but even more than that, we need to flip our mindset and think, how can I be a friend? So we said, ask not what your companions can do for you, but what you can do for your companions is what we learned. Week four, we talked about the obstacles because we all run into really hard, difficult things on our journey. And what we need to learn is to see every obstacle as an opportunity to grow. And then last week in the fifth week in this series, we talked about temptations because we are all tempted to go astray, to do bad things to sin.

0 (15m 41s):

And what we learned is that the only way to defeat temptations is to know that Jesus already won. And today



we come to the goal, the goal. So what is the goal? The ultimate goal that we all need to have in our life. If we truly want a journey that will be meaningful, purposeful, and bring about the ultimate happiness for us.

1 (16m 2s):

Well, Jesus is the goal.

0 (16m 5s):

Okay? Pretty simple. Jesus is the goal. If you really want a life of happiness and an eternal life of happiness, you need to have Jesus as the ultimate goal in your life. And we're going to see this from our passage in Hebrews chapter 12, we're going to start in verse 22 and we're going to go through the end of the chapter. If you're online or on your phone, you can find the arise Denver event in the YouVersion Bible app. We'll have that whole passage there. It's also going to appear on the screen as well. So in verse 22, it's talking about the end of this journey. It says, but you have come to Mount Zion to the city of the living. God, the heavenly Jerusalem, you have come to thousands upon thousands of angels in joyful assembly to the church of the firstborn whose names are written in heaven.

0 (16m 55s):

You have come to God, the judge of all to the spirits of the righteous made perfect

1 (17m 0s):

To who Jesus.

0 (17m 4s):

So here at the end of this journey, they come to the mountain and it's Mount Zion, which of course is the mountain where the city of Jerusalem is built upon. But this isn't just the normal Mount Zion. This is their heavenly Mount Zion, where there is the heavenly city of Jerusalem God's city, which if you read the end of revelation, that means that heaven has come down on earth and they are one. And in this city, you see first this great, beautiful big city on top of the mountain. And then you come into the city and there are thousands upon thousands. That means just multitudes upon multitudes. It's not a number, right? So many angels worshiping. These are eternal beings that are, are worshiping and they're enjoy full assembly. This is means they're happy. They're excited. This is a celebration.

0 (17m 44s):

This is a party. And then if you keep going, it says to the church of the firstborn. So these are the believers in Jesus Christ who have gone before us to the two whose names are written in heaven. You have come to God, the judge of all, and to the spirits of the righteous made perfect. These are all who put their faith in Jesus Christ. The righteous made perfect. That's interesting. It's the righteous made perfect. There's a term in theology called glorification. See it as hard as we try in our life to become like Jesus.

1 (18m 16s):

We're not quite getting there, right?

0 (18m 18s):

Be honest. The most saintly person you've ever met when they're on their death bed, they're annoyed. They're agitated. They might say a few things,

1 (18m 24s):

Right? Even at the end,

0 (18m 27s):

The greatest among us is a sinner. And yet what happens when you finally make it to this eternal kingdom to heaven this heavenly city, there's a glorification that happens with God makes us perfect. Okay. That's a little bonus point of theology

1 (18m 39s):

That I'm giving you today. So

0 (18m 42s):

What we see in these letters, there's the great city. There's the angels. There's the people of God, man. It's going to be exciting. I want to talk to people like Martin Luther, like, Hey, I'm going to talk to the apostle Peter. I want to talk to James, right? Hey, tell me about this stuff. I want to finally find out who wrote this book of Hebrews. We still don't know. Can't wait to find this stuff out, right? But that's not what it's about. And see it keeps going, right? All those things are good, but it's leading up to the greatest point of pinnacle, the climax of this journey,

1 (19m 6s):

Who is it? It's Jesus, Jesus.

0 (19m 10s):

This is there. It says in the book of revelation that he is the lamb at the center of the throne. Everything revolves around him, even in heaven. It's all about Jesus. He is.

1 (19m 22s):

I'm saying this because there's so many good things about heaven that we can look forward to, but they are all secondary to Jesus. The ultimate goal to Jesus, the ultimate goal. So

0 (19m 34s):

I think a good analogy for this is marriage. If you just imagine a couple about to get married, there's there's

Joe and there's Mary and they're getting together a week before their wedding and they're sitting down for dinner

1 (19m 46s):

And they're thinking about their wedding coming up next week. And Joe says

0 (19m 50s):

That this is what you'd think. Joe would say, Joe would say something

1 (19m 52s):

Like, I can't wait to marry you, Mary. I'm so excited. I can't wait to spend the rest of my life with you. That's what he should say. Right. But what if he said instead, man, I can't wait to see uncle Tim. Haven't seen him in awhile and my frat buddies. Ah, I can't wait to see those guys, Olin man, the food's going to be good. I can't wait to have a piece of that cake. Okay? All those things are fine. They're good. But that's not what it's about. Right? It's not about any of those things. It's about the marriage, right? And interestingly enough, marriages,

0 (20m 33s):

Really an analogy for us about our reuniting with Jesus at the end, in fact, in the book of revelation, it calls it that final. The banquet that we get to have it calls it, the, the marriage, supper of the lamb, the finally will meet Jesus and we will get to hang out with him. We could just spend

1 (20m 48s):

Time with him. You turn it with him, man. That's what it's about. That's what it's about.

0 (20m 55s):

You get to spend time with Jesus. It tells us it's going to be a great banquet in Isaiah 25 six. It says there's going to be the best meats and the finest of wines. Okay. It's going to be a party. It's going to be good. It's going to be great to see grandma. It's going to be awesome to meet Peter, but it's going to be even greater

1 (21m 10s):

To see Jesus there. He's the ultimate goal.

0 (21m 16s):

I think John Piper was right when he wrote in his book, God is the gospel that people who would be happy in heaven if Christ were

1 (21m 22s):

There will not be there.

0 (21m 26s):

So 90% of people in our country think that they're going to heaven

1 (21m 30s):

When bold. But if you have,

0 (21m 33s):

I asked him like, well, why do you want to go to heaven? Would they even say, Jesus

1 (21m 38s):

We'll even be in their top 10 list. I'd be like, Oh,

0 (21m 40s):

I can't wait to get rid of the, these terrible bodies. I can't wait to celebrate. I can't wait to see these people that I miss. I can't wait for something better than this life. That's what people would say. But really it's about

1 (21m 50s):

Jesus. He's our ultimate goal. And the people that don't realize that probably aren't going to be there because they don't know.

0 (21m 59s):

I have the right goal in his life. It's about Jesus. All those other things are secondary.

1 (22m 3s):

Even the angels are celebrating Jesus and worshiping.

0 (22m 8s):

And so Jesus is the goal. Jesus is the goal that we're supposed to go after and set our mind on and focus on because it's all about him. Even at the end, we're going to be looking at him and it's going to be amazing. And if you have questions, what will that, what does having really like? We're actually going to be talking about that in our series. That starts right after Easter. Okay. So stay tuned. You're going to have to stick around. I know that's two series away, but, but stick around for that. We're gonna talk about how Jesus is way better than you think. And so it was heaven. Okay. Those are some of the things we're going to talk about in that series. But what, what I want us to learn today is not just that Jesus is the goal. Here's the other cool thing about this passage that Jesus has actually the way to the goal as well.

0 (22m 52s):

Jesus is the goal and Jesus is the way to the goal.

1 (22m 55s):

Okay? So I want you

0 (22m 58s):

To look with me in verse 24, again, where it says we come to Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant, there's a new way of doing things into the sprinkle blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel. Now this passage is just chock full of old Testament, illusions and things that are going on from the Bible. So we miss a lot of them, but, but this guy, Abel was actually the very first guy who died in the Bible. Very first guy who probably died in history. Okay. Abel was murdered by his brother Cain because Cain was jealous that God accepted Abel. Right? So it says in that passage, basically that Abel's blood cries out for vengeance, that there must be justice.

1 (23m 41s):

What happened to him? And there was a curse put on Cain of

0 (23m 46s):

The evil and the sin that he had committed. But what this passage is saying is, is just like Abel, who was innocent in his death. He wasn't perfectly righteous and innocent in his life, but he was innocent in his death in the same way. Jesus was innocent in his death. He actually did nothing wrong. And as we talked about last week, he never gave into temptation. Even when the devil was looking him straight in the face, he was perfect. He was righteous in every way. And yet still he was beaten. He was murdered. He was executed. He was punished for crimes that he did not commit. And when all of his blood was shed, when he was there on the cross, that blood cries out a better word because it is not for justice and retribution.

0 (24m 26s):

It is a word that says mercy and forgiveness. So even Jesus, as he was crucified on the cross, bleeding out, he said, father, for give them

1 (24m 38s):

For, they know not what they do.

0 (24m 41s):

Jesus' blood cries out, not for retribution, but, but to give forgiveness and mercy to people who don't deserve it to the people who murdered him and to you and me. So, so when we see this, we see that the reason why we can make it into heaven, where Jesus is, is purely and solely. And only because of the blood of Jesus Christ. You know, most people, I think if you ask them, how are you getting into heaven? They would say, well, because I'm a good person or I've done more good things than bad. You know, people say this and I've had people tell me this a lot. I think if you polled Americans, most Americans would say that that's why at

90% of them think they're going into heaven. Even though there's no way, 90% are better than average. Right.

0 (25m 21s):

But we all think that we think I'm good. And I think people imagine that they come to the judgment seat because it does say that God will judge us. Right? Even in this passage, we come to God, the judge, I think we imagine that we'll stand before the judgment seat and we'll say something like, sure, I've done some bad things,

1 (25m 40s):

But I didn't know better. Or I was young or,

0 (25m 45s):

You know, I had, I had good motives or at least pretty good motives or at least better motives than that guy over there. Right. And I've done so many good things in my life. Took care of my grandma when she was sick. I shoveled that lady's walkway when it snowed so much that Sunday morning I did all those good things. I even served at the homeless shelter. Heck I gave away money. I even donated my car. Look at all the great things I've done. They have to outweigh the bad things I've done in my life. I think most of us assume it's going to go. Something like that, that the good outweighs the bad,

1 (26m 19s):

But, but see God doesn't grade on a curve. It

0 (26m 23s):

It's not like, okay, well, you know, you got a D plus. So I guess we'll let you,

1 (26m 27s):

Right. You were definitely better than Hitler. There's that? Okay. No, no,

0 (26m 34s):

God. Isn't going to do that. See, it's a pass fail, right? You're either in or you're out and what God is going to say to us as the judge,

2 (26m 40s):

You did wrong. You sinned. And because of, I can't let you into heaven

0 (26m 44s):

Because heaven is perfect. If you come in, you're going to ruin it for the rest of us.

1 (26m 50s):

You're out. That's what the judge would say to us.

0 (26m 54s):

Let's see. Then there's another voice, the voice that cries out. And I think it's almost like

1 (27m 0s):

That were at the gate. And the judge is saying, okay,

0 (27m 3s):

It's time to go. Sorry. You didn't make it in. But then Jesus is in the back and say, Hey, I know him. Let him in. He's my buddy. Let him in, let her, let her in she's with me.

1 (27m 16s):

Okay.

0 (27m 17s):

So, so it's like that party, like, just because you know the host of the house, you, you can get in with the rest of the party, right? Cause that house knows you. And that's what it's going to be like. Jesus says in his own words, when he's saying that there's going to be some people that, that go out of the kingdom, he's going to say depart from me. I never knew you. The reason why they're not coming in is not because of the good and bad things they done. It's because they didn't know Jesus. They didn't have a relationship with him. But when Jesus knows us, his voice is going to cry out and say, Hey, come on in. You don't deserve to be here, but come on in. And that's that moment of glorification. When all the sinful things get removed from us at the end,

1 (27m 52s):

Right? Come on in, come on,

0 (27m 55s):

Party, come and celebrate in my kingdom. That's what Jesus says to all who know him.

1 (28m 1s):

So you see it

0 (28m 1s):

Goes on in verse 25. We read, see to it that you do not refuse him. Who speaks that's Jesus. If they did not escape, when they refused him, who warned them on earth? How much less will we, if we live, we turn away from him who warns us from heaven. So that, that verse is now alluding to, to the time of the wilderness

wanderings. When God's people were complaining and unfaithful, and God says, okay, you won't enter the promised land. So the other of Hebrews is saying, if people here on earth got this warning from earth and they still didn't turn in belief to God, if God now is speaking from heaven, from his word and saying,

1 (28m 40s):

Leave, don't reject it. It said that do not refuse him. Who speaks.

0 (28m 45s):

We should probably listen to that warning and listen and say, Hey, I've got to believe. I've got to press on. I've got to put my faith in Jesus in his blood

1 (28m 52s):

Alone. That's what this passage is saying. So

0 (28m 58s):

W we learned that Jesus is not only the goal, but he's also the way to the goal. The way that we can get into heaven is only by knowing him and what he did for us on the cross. I want you to see this. So clearly it's not that you're going to work hard and you're going to live a great life. And all of a sudden at the end, Oh, here here's your A-plus okay. Or even an a minus. No, no, no. It's only going to be fail, but we get in because Jesus knows.

1 (29m 22s):

And then we get to spend eternity with him forever.

0 (29m 26s):

And it's going to be amazing.

1 (29m 30s):

It's going to be great. It

0 (29m 31s):

Far surpasses all the little goals we have in our life. Getting married, having kids, writing a book, okay. Achieving something great. And having this business, making your first million dollars, all those goals are, are nothing. They will disappoint us. But now Jesus, he offers us fullness and complete happiness. I saw this interview from Steph Curry. And if we can go back there in the notes, Steph Curry, of course, the point guard for the golden state warriors. He said, I know I have a place in heaven waiting for me because of who Jesus. And that's something, no earthly prize or trophy could ever top. And he says that having an NBA MVPs, he says that heavy won championships and arguably the best shooter of all time,



1 (30m 16s):

His title, right. And he is right. And yet he says, none of that is as important as the ultimate goal Jesus and entering his kingdom. And if he can see that, I think we need to see it as well

0 (30m 30s):

Because our goals will disappoint us, but Jesus, he will never disappoint us. So he invites us into this kingdom and it is going to be amazing. We come to this heavenly city where nothing is broken, nothing is like this earth where there's sickness like there's plagues and there's pestilence and all the terrible things in his life. There's not going to be any more sickness, sorrow, pain, or death. There's only going to be new bodies for those who are coming into this great new city. And in this city, there are going to be angels worshiping God, creating the greatest melodies of music that we get to join in with. It's going to be the best concert you've ever been to times a billion. Okay, man, that sounds good for those of you who are musicians like, yes, I can't wait to go to that.

0 (31m 12s):

And I get to even sing and play in that. That's going to be amazing. It's going to be like that. And we're going to see these saints who have gone before. It's going to be so exciting to talk to these people, hear about them, get to know who actually wrote this book of Hebrews. It's going to be amazing to see the loved ones we have lost. I can't wait to see those people. It's going to be so great that the reunion we're going to have, but all of that pales in comparison to seeing Jesus, the King, the shepherd, the lamb, it's a center of the throne that we will all get to worship and be in his presence forever. It tells us in Psalm 16, 11, that in his presence is the fullness of joy, true happiness forever.

0 (31m 53s):

And add his right-hand pleasures forevermore. That's where I want to be. Jesus is the goal, the ultimate goal. And he should be our only goal in this life. And when you do that, it will not only make eternity amazing, but it will make this life better as well as we have purpose and happiness, as we continue on in our quest

1 (32m 12s):

To reach the ultimate goal. So as I have the band come up right now,

0 (32m 18s):

It tells us in his passage, don't refuse him who speaks. Jesus is calling. Don't refuse. Listen to him, except it. And I'm saying that because there are some people here, even some of you who have grown up in church and you've heard this stuff again again. And you think that you're going to get in because you're a good person or you have a good heart, but that's not true. We're only in because we know Jesus the King. So I want to you an opportunity to declare Jesus as your Lord and savior, to truly get to know him in relationship

1 (32m 44s):

So that, you know, you will be in there that your name will be written down in the Lamb's book of life. He'll say, come on in, come on in. So

0 (32m 54s):

I want to give you an opportunity to do that. So if everybody could just bow their heads and close their eyes right now, now if you're here or if you're online and you've already declared Jesus as your Lord and savior, you already know your name is written in the Lamb's book of life. Would you just say this prayer out loud with me to give courage to someone who needs to say it today for the first time,

1 (33m 11s):

Would you guys do that with me?

0 (33m 13s):

So I want you to just repeat this prayer.

1 (33m 15s):

Me, dear God. Thank you for loving me. I'm a sinner. I need a savior. Forgive me, save me. I declare that Jesus is Lord. Fill me with your Holy spirit. Help me to follow you and serve you till I reach the goal. Amen.

0 (33m 44s):

Now with heads bowed, eyes closed for just a minute. If you said that prayer for the first time and meant it, would you just slip your hand into the air? I'd love to just celebrate it.

1 (33m 53s):

Praise God, praise God, Lord. I'm so grateful that this is

0 (34m 0s):

This morning. We have people that are entering the kingdom today. We want to celebrate them. We know the angels are celebrating right now and it's just a foretaste of what will come in the future.

1 (34m 10s):

God, we worship you. Now,

0 (34m 13s):

If you made that decision for the first time, you can open up your eyes for a second, go to a rise. Denver com slash connect. Fill out that form

1 (34m 18s):

New here. But I want to read, if you can open up your eyes.

0 (34m 23s):

I want to read the end of this passage because it's so good. And for, for this, could you, could you guys just stand up

1 (34m 29s):

Your feet?

0 (34m 33s):

There's 26, this whole section about this end goal, the heavenly

1 (34m 37s):

City,

0 (34m 39s):

The presence of Jesus. It ends like this in verse 26. At that time,

1 (34m 43s):

His voice shook

0 (34m 44s):

The earth is talking about in the old Testament. When God spoke to Moses, there was an earthquake, but now he has promised once more. I will shake not only the earth, but also the heavens. The words, once more indicate the removing of what can be shaken that is created things so that what cannot be shaken

1 (35m 1s):

May remain. See all the old

0 (35m 3s):

Yuck, terrible things about this planet will be gone forever.

1 (35m 8s):

The world will be shaken and what will be left

0 (35m 11s):

28. It says, therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us be thankful. And so worship God acceptably with reverence and awe for our God is a consuming fire. Lord, God, we worship you. We are grateful that you, as a consuming fire who shakes the earth, even shakes the heavens

1 (35m 34s):

Have invited us through your son, through his blood shed on the cross, better word than even the word available that you allow us to come into your presence, where there is the eternal joy forever. Lord God, we long for that goal. We keep our eyes set on that goal. And because of that, we worship you right now in your presence in awe in reverence, Lord God, we are so grateful that your son, Jesus is the King of Kings. Amen.